



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release

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Idaho Sweet Cherry Production Forecasted at 1,500 Tons

Idaho is expecting a sweet cherry crop of 1,500 tons in 2010, down 75 percent from last year's record high and 21 percent lower than 2008, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Idaho experienced freezing weather during pre-bloom that damaged this year's crop. Producers are expecting a light crop.

United States sweet cherry production is forecast at 315,400 tons, down 27 percent from 2009. The Washington crop forecast of 160,000 tons is down 35 percent from 2009. The crop has fallen behind on maturity due to cool, wet weather this spring. Production in California is forecast at 90,000 tons, 15 percent higher than the 2009 production. Spring weather generated occasional rain and cool temperatures during the critical development of the crop. A strong bloom occurred in March. Oregon production is forecast at 45,000 tons, down 33 percent from 2009. Cold, wet weather conditions hindered bloom, pollination, and growth. The Michigan crop is forecast at 17,000 tons, 41 percent below the 2009 production. A wind freeze in early April killed buds on trees on high sites that are generally less susceptible to frost damage. New York production is forecast at 1,100 tons, 11 percent below the 2009 crop. The majority of sweet cherries had a big bloom and the crop looked good. Only a few growers reported frost damage this year. Utah production is expected to total 800 tons, down significantly from 2009. A late frost, cold wet spring, and tree fatigue from last year's extra heavy crop negatively impacted production, which is about half of last year's level.

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